



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☒

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2001. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)			<b>Complete if Known</b>		
			Application Number	10/540,742	
Sheet	1	Of	1	Filing Date	June 24, 2005
				First Named Inventor	Shinichi Kawataba
				Group Art Unit	2877
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	0388-051896

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number Code <sup>2</sup>	Kind			
JU		4,828,387		Sawyers et al.	05-09-1989	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>				
JU		JP	2002-107294	A	Kubota Corp.	04-10-2002	English Trans Only	
		JP	2002-077522	A	Casio Comput Co. Ltd.	03-15-2002	English Trans Only	
		JP	10-62337	A	Sumitomo Metal Mining	03-06-1998	English Trans Only	
		JP	63-81226	A	Ares-Serono R&D	04-12-1998	US 4,828,387 equiv.	
		JP	2000-162047	A	Komatsu Ltd.	06-16-2000	English Trans Only	
		JP	2002-181701	A	Saika Technological Institute Foundation	06-26-2002	English Trans Only	
		JP	2002-168772	A	Kubota Corp.	06-14-2002	English Trans Only	
		JP	2002-174592	A	Kubota Corp.	06-21-2002	English Trans Only	
		JP	8-29333	A	Kubota Corp.	02-02-1996	English Trans Only	
		JP	2002-107303	A	Kubota Corp.	04-10-2002	English Trans Only	
		JP	2000-199743	A	Mitsui Mining & Smelting	07-18-2000	English Trans Only	
		JP	7-063674	A	Wakayama Pref. et al.	03-10-1995	English Trans Only	
		JP	2002-090301	A	Kubota Corp.	03-27-2002	English Trans Attached	
		JP	08-005550		Kubota Corp.	01-12-1996	English Trans Attached	
JU		JP	05-045212		Juki Corp.	02-23-1993	English Trans Attached	

Examiner Signature	/Jarreas Underwood/	Date Considered	03/01/2007
-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

{W0251507.1}